

CLAIMS

1 1. An electronic book device, comprising:
2 a portable housing; and
3 a processor in the housing and displaying content stored in a storage device by
4 undertaking at least one of: responding to plural input modes, and outputting the content using
5 plural output modes.

1 2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the plural output modes include at least visual graphics
2 and sound, and the device includes at least one visual display and at least one audio speaker, both
3 being responsive to the processor for outputting content.

1 3. The device of Claim 2, wherein the processor is responsive to user input selecting an
2 output mode.

1 4. The device of Claim 1, wherein the plural input modes include at least graphics and
2 sound, and the device includes at least one graphics input device and at least one audio input device,
3 both sending input signals to the processor.

1 5. The device of Claim 4, wherein the processor is responsive to user input selecting an
2 input mode.

1 6. The device of Claim 1, wherein the processor responds to a graphics input mode by
2 outputting content in a graphics output mode using a graphic user interface, the processor also
3 responding to an audio input mode by outputting content in an audio output mode using an audio
4 user interface.

1 7. The device of Claim 6, wherein the user interfaces run simultaneously with each other.

1 8. The device of Claim 6, wherein the processor receives for storage annotations from
2 a user-selected one of the user interfaces.

1 9. The device of Claim 6, wherein the processor is programmed to allow a user to
2 navigate through the content using a user-selected one of the user interfaces.

1 10. The device of Claim 8, wherein the annotations are associated with user-selected
2 portions of content.

3
4 11. The device of Claim 6, wherein the processor receives for storage annotations from
5 a user-selected one of the user interfaces and updates the other user interface with the annotations.

1 12. The device of Claim 6, wherein the processor is programmed to allow a user to

1 navigate through the content using a user-selected one of the user interfaces to render a navigation
2 result, the processor updating the other user interface with the navigation result.

1 13. An electronic book, comprising:
2 content stored in at least one data storage;
3 at least one abstract interface accessing the data storage;
4 at least an audio user interface communicating with the abstract interface; and
5 at least one graphics user interface communicating with the abstract interface, the
6 abstract interface receiving user input commands from the audio user interface and updating
7 the graphics user interface in response thereto, the abstract interface receiving user input
8 commands from the graphics user interface and updating the audio user interface in response
9 thereto.

1 14. The book of Claim 13, wherein the book includes at least one visual display associated
2 with the graphics user interface and at least one audio speaker associated with the audio user
3 interface.

1 15. The book of Claim 14, wherein content is output in a graphics output mode using the
2 graphic user interface, content also being output in an audio output mode using the audio user
3 interface.

1 16. The book of Claim 15, wherein the user interfaces run simultaneously with each other.

1 17. The book of Claim 15, wherein the annotations from a user-selected one of the user
2 interfaces are stored in the book.

1 18. The book of Claim 15, wherein a user navigates through the content using a user-
2 selected one of the user interfaces.

1 19. The book of Claim 17, wherein the annotations are associated with user-selected
2 portions of content.

1 20. The book of Claim 15, wherein the abstract interface updates one of the user interfaces
2 in response to commands received from the other user interface.

1 21. A computer program product, comprising:
2 a computer program storage device;
3 computer-readable instructions on the storage device for causing a computer to display
4 electronic content in more than one mode, comprising:
5 computer readable code means for receiving an annotation to content via an audio user
6 interface;
7 computer readable code means for associating the annotation with content; and

1 computer readable code means for displaying the annotation and associated content
2 using a graphical user interface.

1 22. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising:

2 computer readable code means for receiving an annotation to content via a graphical
3 user interface;

4 computer readable code means for associating the annotation with content; and

5 computer readable code means for displaying the annotation and associated content
6 using an audio user interface.

1 23. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein the user interfaces run
2 simultaneously with each other.

1 24. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising computer readable
2 code means for allowing a user to navigate through the content using a user-selected one of the user
3 interfaces.

1 25. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising computer readable
2 code means for storing annotations from a user-selected one of the user interfaces and computer
3 readable code means for updating the other user interface with the annotations.

1 26. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising:
2 computer readable code means for allowing a user to navigate through the content
3 using a user-selected one of the user interfaces to render a navigation result; and
4 computer readable code means for updating the other user interface with the navigation
5 result.

1 27. A method for presenting content using an electronic book, comprising:
2 providing a portable housing having content electronically stored therein;
3 running a first output thread useful for displaying the content; and
4 simultaneously with running the first output thread, running at least a second output
5 thread useful for displaying the content.

1 28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the first output thread is a graphics output thread
2 and the second output thread is an audio output thread.

1 29. The method of Claim 27, wherein the threads are run simultaneously with each other
2 such that each thread is at substantially the same location in the content as the other thread.

1 30. The method of Claim 27, wherein each output thread is associated with a
2 corresponding input mode for inputting annotations and user commands.

1 31. The method of Claim 30, further comprising responding to user commands to switch
2 between displaying the content from the first output thread and displaying the content from the
3 second output thread.